

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Outgoing
Chairperson
President Diane Enos, Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian Community, Incoming
Chairperson
Lt. Robert Bates, Phoenix Police Department
Kristin Scharlau for Kathy Berzins, City of
Tempe
*John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice
Commission
Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
Dr. Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical
Center
*Suzanne Cohen, Maricopa County Attorney's
Office
*Councilmember William Conner, El Mirage
Chris Christy, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian
Community
JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy
Center
Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler
Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic
Security
*Cindy Hallman, Marley House
*Councilmember Brenda Holland, Goodyear
* Dan Hughes, Surprise Police Department
*Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, Phoenix Police
Department, Vice Chair
Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Department
Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area
Agency on Aging
Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter
Councilmember Phil Lieberman, Glendale
*Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for
Women
Betty Lynch, Representative for City of
Avondale
*JoEllen Lynn, American Express

Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office,
Division for Women
*Stephanie Olohan for City of Goodyear
Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the
Family Foundation
* Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
DC Ernst for Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire
Department
Jennifer Dalton for Tina Solomon, City of
Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal
Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office
Ada Chaura, Save the Family
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Kristin Krey, City of Goodyear
Brad Lundahl, City of Scottsdale
Royce Manuel, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
Alice Moore, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Indian Community
Debbie Nez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian
Community/BHS
Kay Radwanski, AZ Supreme Court
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Linda Scott, Jewish Family and Children
Services
Rena Tenney, MAG
Jessica Yanow, Arizona Association of
Community Health Centers

+ Those attending by video/audio conference
* Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Chair Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Chair Manross welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the June 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Chair Manross called for approval of the June 5, 2008 meeting minutes. JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Laura Guild seconded the motion. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Leadership Transition

Chair Manross introduced the new Chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, President Diane Enos of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Mayor Manross shared with the group she was honored to have been a member of the MAG Domestic Violence Council. She added serving as Chair has been one of her most important and rewarding experiences. Mayor Manross stated her recent appointment as Chair the MAG Regional Council is the only reason she is stepping down.

Mayor Manross commented she feels strongly about efforts to address the issue of domestic violence. She thanked all council members for their dedication to this issue and their attendance during her tenure. Mayor Manross stated President Enos has very generously agreed to serve as Chair of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council moving forward. She noted the Council will be well served under President Enos' leadership. President Enos expressed her gratitude to Mayor Manross for her great leadership of the Council. President Enos expressed she feels honored to be appointed Chair of the Council.

5. City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report

Chair Enos introduced JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center (FAC), who presented on the 2007 City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report. Ms. Del-Colle stated as Director of the FAC she headed up the first fatality review team in Arizona. She gave some background on the development of the fatality review team concept. On April 18, 2005, Governor Napolitano signed into law Senate Bill 1071 which supported the creation of Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams. In May 2006, Phoenix City Manager Fairbanks appointed members to a Fatality Review Project Committee. In spring of 2006, the Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) met for the first time.

Ms. Del-Colle explained the team's mission was to examine domestic violence fatalities to better understand the dynamics involved and to make recommendations for system improvements. She said members of the City of Phoenix DVFRT included representation from the City Prosecutor's Office, City Law Department, Public

Defender's Office, and Phoenix Fire and Police. Ms. Del-Colle said the team decided to utilize the definition of domestic violence as described in Arizona Revised Statute 13-3601. She discussed the criteria used to select one case to review in the report including the ability to access significant background information and cooperative family members. She stated the importance of finding a case with full adjudication. Ms. Del-Colle noted 16 domestic violence homicides occurred in 2007 as defined by Arizona Revised Statute.

Sarah Youngblood asked Ms. Del-Colle if the team had discussed the issue of requiring reports as they do for child abuse. Ms. Del-Colle directed the question to Dr. Jennifer Casaletto. Dr. Casaletto said medical professionals are hesitant to pursue these reports because this may increase the potential for harm to the patient. She stated child abuse reports from CPS are typically rejected even after the effort has been taken by physicians. Ms. Del-Colle commented on the importance of the work of victim advocates in addressing the many factors that can play into whether victims are reporting or not. Ms. Del-Colle gave the example of a recent case where the victim was severely beaten, but when questioned, she did not want to make a report. The Phoenix Police Department dispatched an advocate who was able to get more information from the victim.

Ms. Del-Colle said the FAC is working with the Phoenix Police Department to coordinate teams of detectives assigned to various sections of the city. The goal of these teams would be to have an arrest within 24 hours of receiving a report. This new system will have three levels of review. Ms. Del-Colle added the FAC has received a STOP grant to fund training on victimology and an on-site danger assessment. She commented on Lt. Robert Bates' investment in this issue and concern for children impacted by domestic violence. Ms. Del-Colle commented the Fatality Review Report includes a timeline of the perpetrators actions and the activities of the victim. She noted how this element provides an impactful visual representation of the events leading up to her death. Ms. Del-Colle added the perpetrator was never held accountable for his actions for various offenses during his life. She said it became clear the perpetrator didn't feel he did anything wrong. Ms. Del-Colle reinforced this as another example of the importance of offender accountability.

Councilmember Trinity Donovan asked about the review team process. She inquired about the time frame and time commitment of team members. Ms. Del-Colle said the review process started in 2006 and lasted through Fall 2007. The report was then written. She noted this was the first review report conducted and lessons were learned to help streamline the process. Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, added the state legislature determined who would be involved in the review process. Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Department, asked how fire departments could assist in this effort. Ms. Del-Colle provided Ms. Jelinek with contact information for obtaining resources for fire departments. Dr. Casaletto added the possibility of using a short, 10-question domestic violence assessment currently

being used by paramedics after completing hospital transport from a place of residence.

Dr. Casaletto inquired about the team's vision for forensic exams. Ms. Del-Colle discussed the need for additional funding to offset the cost of sexual assault exams. She said the county does not pay for these exams. Chair Enos asked for clarification on the difference between forensic exams and sexual assault exams. Dr. Casaletto said general forensic exams can reveal evidence of assaults not visible otherwise, such as determining if a victim has been strangled by looking at the inside of their throats or the backs of their eyes. She stated that a sexual assault exam collects different kinds of evidence to support the investigation.

6. Joint Domestic Violence/Homeless Meeting

Chair Enos introduced Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who reported on recent collaborative efforts between domestic violence and homeless shelter providers. Ms. Bones said a joint meeting of domestic violence and homeless providers was held on June 10, 2008. This meeting was organized through the efforts of MAG, Department of Economic Security's Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices, AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence and AZ Coalition to End Homelessness. She said the meeting was well attended by providers from both fields. Ms. Bones said the intended outcome of the joint meeting was to identify opportunities to improve cross-referral procedures between domestic violence and homeless providers throughout Maricopa County.

Ms. Bones provided information on what led to the decision to bring the two groups together. She said historically two out of every three requests for domestic violence shelter beds were unmet. Ms. Bones added this number was more like five out of every six requests in Maricopa County. In 2005 the MAG Domestic Violence Council released a report showing an unduplicated count that one out of every two clients seeking shelter received these services. She said these statistics led to the Governor's Plan to end shelter turn-aways in four years. Ms. Bones said new funding appropriations led to 319 new beds opening in Maricopa County between 2006 and 2008. She said the influx of new beds led to open beds in domestic violence shelters for the first time in the region. She noted the number of unoccupied new beds has decreased over recent months, but the situation brought about discussions on how to maximize bed space for those seeking shelter from domestic violence and homelessness.

Ms. Bones said participants in the joint meeting identified strengths, barriers and solutions to collaborative efforts between domestic violence and homeless shelter providers. The group identified strengths as willingness to collaborate, existing information and referral system through CONTACS and addressing basic needs. The group identified barriers as competition for the same resources, eligibility requirements and lack of appropriate services for homeless in domestic violence shelters vice versa. Ms. Bones said the group also discussed potential solutions including centralized intake, creating a collaborative funding model, advocating for

additional funding, creating opportunities for cross training and streamlining a cross referral process. Ms. Bones said the group decided to form a working group to implement identified strategies. She added the working group is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 19 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Cholla Room of the MAG offices. She stated a joint meeting of the MAG Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Continuum of Care will be held in the Fall.

7. Legal Assistance Study

Chair Enos introduced Amy Schlappi, MAG Intern, who provided an update on the Legal Assistance Study. The update included discussion on the development of the survey instrumentation for the study. Ms. Schlappi said the Legal Assistance Study was chosen by the MAG Domestic Violence Council as a goal for FY2008 and was continued into the FY2009 MAG Unified Planning Work Program. The purpose of the study is to describe the experiences of domestic violence survivors in accessing legal. The study will include a literature review, surveys of legal professionals and domestic violence survivors, case study interviews, best practices and recommendations.

Ms. Schlappi stated two survey instruments have been drafted. One survey will be given to legal professionals and the other will be administered to domestic violence survivors. The survey instruments were piloted this month. Ms. Schlappi said feedback was received from legal professionals and incorporated into the surveys. She added information is still coming in for the survivor survey. Ms. Schlappi noted she had met with Bill Hart and Richard Toon from the ASU Morrison Institute regarding additional revisions. She said the suggestions were obtained that morning which didn't allow time to incorporate them into the survey instruments prior to the meeting.

Renae Tenney, MAG, thanked Ms. Schlappi for her help in putting the surveys together. Ms. Tenney noted this project was Ms. Schlappi's final task for her internship and to send any suggested changes via email to her. She stated the changes recommended by the Morrison Institute involved terminology for the professional survey, and rearranging the sections for better flow of questions. Amy St. Peter, MAG, said the deadline has been extended to accommodate the changes. She said the revised survey instruments will be sent out for members to review and provide additional feedback. She added the goal is to have the surveys finalized by the end of August.

8. Annual Public Service Announcement Competition

Chair Enos introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, who reported on the Youth Empowerment Project's activities and sought input on the structure of this year's competition. Ms. Tenney said the Youth Empowerment Project was designed as an intervention tool to raise awareness of teen dating violence. She said the project places resources directly in the hands of teens through the Web of Friends Web site. Ms. Tenney added the project strives to engage youth in becoming part of the solution

by participating in a public service announcement (PSA) competition. She thanked the Governor's Office for supporting the project and awarding a third year of funding. Ms. Tenney said the PSA competition invites youth to create concepts for speaking to their peers about dating violence. She noted the first year of the competition included the categories of video and storyboard. Last year's categories were radio ads and electronic invites to visit the Web of Friends Web site. She said the winning radio ad was professionally produced in May with the help of teens from the Valley Youth Theater and the Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy. She said copies of the radio ad were distributed to six local radio outlets in June. She noted the PSA has not been played on the radio yet, but several stations have promoted the Youth Empowerment Project on their public awareness programs. Ms. Tenney, Mayor Manross and Martyna Sawicka, the second place winner in the competition, have taped several of these programs. Ms. Tenney added information about the project is currently highlighted on POWER 98.3's Web site. She said POWER 98.3/The Edge plans to provide the public service program session in a downloadable podcast from their web site.

Ms. Tenney discussed plans for the third annual PSA competition. She said this year's categories will be print and Web banners. Ms. Tenney stated the timeline for the competition would be similar to the timeline used for last year's competition. She asked for any suggestions for changes to the timeline. Betty Lynch said the timeframe didn't need to be adjusted. Ms. Lynch suggested changing the judging process to include more input from council members. She recommended adding links to YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs from the project's Web site.

Councilmember Trinity Donovan suggested providing some clear parameters for the size and anticipated use of the print submissions. Ms. Youngblood asked about the age group targeted by the project. Ms. Tenney stated any youth between 12-19 years of age residing in Maricopa County may participate. Laura Guild, DES, inquired about the intended use of the print submissions. Ms. Tenney said the winning entry would be submitted to newspapers and youth-focused magazines. She added the print entry could be placed in online versions also. Ms. St. Peter added the winning print entry may be used on different mediums, such as new Web of Friends cards, shirts and other promotional items. Chair Enos asked for examples of print and web banners to be provided to council members. Ms. Bones suggested incorporating text messaging efforts for promotion of the Web site.

Ms. Tenney asked for suggestions for appropriate messages to incorporate into the PSA competition. Ms. Lynch commented on the importance of focusing on mental abuse with youth. Councilmember Donovan commented messages from the previous competitions are still appropriate. Ms. Bones asked if a brief training was provided to classes before asking youth to create entries. Ms. Tenney said the level of introduction to the issue and competition depended on where the entries originated. She mentioned she had created a guide to introduce the project to groups of youth last year. Ms. Tenney noted this could be added to the competition packets. She stated the competition will be announced the end of September. She invited members to

attend a stakeholder group to discuss details of the competition on Tuesday, August 19 from 1:00-1:30 pm in the Cholla Room.

Chair Enos asked for a motion to approve next steps in planning the PSA competition. Mayor Manross motioned, and Dr. Casaletto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. 2008 Domestic Violence Press Conference

Chair Enos introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, who presented on the annual Domestic Violence (DV) Press Conference. Ms. Tenney began by providing background on the press conference. Beginning in 2004, the DV Press Conference has been held annually to announce the arrival of DV Awareness Month and highlight DV activities throughout October. She said the event is used to bring awareness of a specific DV-related topic each year. She commented in previous years the event has focused on the prevalence of DV and encouraged the public to take notice and act against DV. She added the past two years have focused on dating violence among youth. Ms. Tenney asked the group for feedback on the focus for this year's competition.

Several suggestions were made by members of the group. Ms. Lynch suggested holding the press conference in the West Valley. She recommended the press conference highlight additional beds at New Life Center and the recent opening of a Family Advocacy Center to serve three West Valley cities. She added the focus on youth could also be incorporated into the message. Ms. St. Peter said the press conference should maintain focus on a regional DV effort. Ms. Del-Colle suggested focusing on the impact of DV on children. Mayor Manross commented on the importance of focusing on youth to help them recognize unhealthy relationships in their early dating years. She recommended the press conference focus on youth. She also said the West Valley could be explored for potential sites.

Ms. Tenney invited members to attend a planning group meeting to determine the details of the DV Press Conference. She said the meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Cholla Room. She added this meeting will immediately follow the stakeholders group for the PSA Competition.

10. Comments

Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, made several announcements. She said new memberships and renewals to the Coalition are due. These may be taken care of online. Ms. Bones reminded everyone of the Diamondbacks Game fundraiser and pre-game reception taking place on Friday, August 8, 2008. She announced the Coalition's annual conference will take place Sept. 23-24 at the Black Canyon Conference Center. Ms. Bones added registration information is now available on their web site. She announced the Fix the Hurt production of "Domestic Violence: The Musical" has been scheduled for the evening of Sept. 22 at the Herberger Theater. The musical will include a reception and silent auction. Ms. Bones noted the Coalition's latest newsletter is available on their web site.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2008 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices.